

Examiner's Amendment

An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Maurice Valla on March 14, 2009.

The following amendments were discussed and agreed to by Applicant:



- 1) In claim 1, line 1, delete "patients who have diseases characterized"
- 2) In claim 1, line 3 before TRANCE, insert "a".
^b
- 3) In claim 1, line 7, delete "inhibitors" and insert "inhibitor".
^b
- 4) In claim 1, line 4, after compound delete "having the" and insert "selected from".
- 5) Delete claims 6-14 and 16-17.

Reasons for Allowance

The claimed invention, of a method of treating bone loss with a TRANCE/RANK inhibitor effective to inhibit osteoclastogenesis and/or osteoclast function selected from compounds of formula I, is novel and non-obvious. Examiner interprets "to inhibit osteoclastogenesis and/or osteoclast function", as reducing osteoclastogenesis and/or osteoclast function in order to treat bone loss. The closest prior art, by Boyle (EP 0784093) teaches a secreted polypeptide (termed osteoprotegerin-OPG), which is a